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Message Text

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41
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SY-05

USSS-00 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 PER-01 CPR-01 /076 W
---------- 010281
O R 231932Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3910
INFO DIA DOD WASHDC
USCINCSO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
BRASILIA 2663
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8351

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

DIA DOD FOR DIN-2D4/DIR-3B3

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MILI, AR
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 13 AIR FORCE REVOLT

1. AF REVOLT NOW DEFINITELY OVER. NORMAL AIR SERVICE HAS BEEN RESTORED AT AEROPARQUE. BRIGADIER CAPELLINI HAS BEEN FLOWN TO UNNAMED AIR BASE. REPORTEDLY, HE WILL BE ONLY OFFICER TO SUFFER DISCIPLINARY ACTION. AS EXPECTED, YESTERDAY'S STRIKE WAS LIFTED ALMOST AS SOON AS IT BEGAN.

2. CROWDS OF CIVILIANS GATHERED AT MORON YESTERDAY TO CHEER REBELS AND SOME 300-500 PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED AGAINST MRS. PERON AND IN FAVOR OF CAPELLINI IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES LAST NIGHT.
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CROWD SURGED DOWN FLORIDA STREET UNTIL STOPPED BY POLICE CORDON.

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POLICE HAD TO USE TEAR GAS AND SHOTS FIRED IN AIR TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION. TWO EMBASSY COMMUNICATORS WERE FORCED FROM RESTAURANT WHERE THEY WERE HAVING DINNER AND WERE LINED UP ON STREET WITH ARMS IN AIR ALONG WITH OTHER PATRONS. THEY WERE NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, BUT WERE RELEASED AFTER PERIOD OF TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES.

3. "POCKET AF REBELLION" SERVED TO UNDERLINE IMPOTENCE OF MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT, SHE APPEARED IMMOBILIZED AND NEVER GAVE ORDER THAT IT BE SUPPRESSED. AF DID IT ON ITS OWN. THUS, HER SPEECH LAST NIGHT (TEXT OF WHICH WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS VIA FBIS) REFLECTED AN ALMOST BIZARRE DIVORCEMENT FROM REALITY. SHE SPOKE IN FIRST PERSON OF HAVING PUT DOWN REBELLIION WITH SERENITY, OF AVOIDING BLOODSHED AND ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS FOR ARGENTINE PEOPLE. IN FACT, HOWEVER, SHE WAS NOT EVEN A PROTAGONIST. AS LA OPINION PUTS IT THIS MORNING, SPEECH REFLECTS "CERTAIN MISINFORMATION CONCERNING REALITY OF THE SITUATION THROUGH WHICH COUNTRY IS PASSING." MILITARY ARE BOUND TO HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY IRRITATED BY TONE AND CONTENT OF SPEECH, WHICH TOOK ALL CREDIT FOR HERSELF AND BARELY MENTINED MILITARY.

4. MILITARY WILL ALSO BE DISTURBED BY IMPLICATION THAT SHE CLEARLY DOES NOT PLAN TO GO ON LEAVE. ON CONTRARY, SHE EMPHA-SIZED HER INTENTION OF CONTINUING IN OFFICE. DOUBTLESS HER REPEATED USE OF FIRST PERSON WAS ALSO MEANT TO SIGNAL THAT INTENTION. MEANWHILE, HER PERFORMANCE OF PAST FEW DAYS HAS SIMPLY UNDERLINED HER INCAPACITY. EXCEPT FOR HOLDING STERILE CABINET MEETINGS AND ISSUING WEIRD COMMUNIQUES (SEE SEPTEL) SHE TOOK NO ACTION AT ALL. PUBLIC IMAGE IS ONE OF MRS. PERON COWERING AND THEN FAINTING IN CASA ROSADA BASEMENT DURING DECEMBER 20 AIR-RAID SCARE. AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERWOMAN WHO WAS A CLOSE EYEWITNESS REPORTS THAT WHEN MRS. PERON EMERGEED FROM CASA ROSADA ABOUT 10:00 P.M. DECEMBER 20, SHE APPEARED TO BE IN A TRANCE, GRIMACING AND STUMBLING. SEVERAL OF HER BODYGUARDS REPORTEDLY GRABBED HER AND VIRTUALLY THREW HER IN THE BACK OF HER CAR. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT EVEN DURING CRISIS SHE REFUSED TO SPEAK TO INTERIOR MINISTER ROBLEDO, WHOM SHE HAS COME TO DETEST. THE TWO COMMUNICATE THROUGH A THIRD PARTY RATHER THAN SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO ONE ANOTHER.

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5. AS SOME OBSERVERS HAVE PUT IT: "MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT IS DEAD--HAS BEEN DEAD FOR MONTHS." IT APPEARS, NONETHELESS, THAT ITS EXISTENCE AS A LVIING CORPSE HAS BEEN PROLONGED FOR YET ANOTHER FEW DAYS, OR EVEN WEEKS. TO THEIR CREDIT, THE ARMED FORCES ARE STILL HOPING CIVILIANS WILL PRODUCE SOME CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS OF REMOVING MRS. PERON FROM OFFICE. BUT TIME IS CLEARLY RUNNING OUT. UNLESS MORE GRACEFUL WAY IS FOUND, MILITARY MAY SOON HAVE TO PUT HER ON A PLANE TO MADRID, AS THEY DID LOPEZ REGA.

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6. GOVERNMENT, AND COUNTRY, REMAIN IN STATE OF CRISIS, BUT CRISIS COULD CONTINUE FOR YET SOME TIME TO COME. IMMEDIATE ISSUE, THAT OF AF REVOLT, HAS PASSED. THUS, WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE OTHE SHOE TO DROP, EMBASSY WILL TERMINATE SITREP SERIES. IN CLOSING OUT, WE REPEAT OBSERVATION OF BUENOS AIRES HERALD THAT "THERE ARE USUALLY MORE CASUALTIES AT A MEXICAN WEDDING THAN IN AN ARGENTINE REVOLT." HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, AIR FORCE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS08351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750445-0840
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751216/aaaaanxo.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP NO. 13 AIR FORCE REVOLT
TAGS: PINT, MILI, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006